



REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-9966



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Contact: Bill Meyer
(800) 392-3202

USDA TO CONDUCT SURVEY ON EQUINE HEALTH

DENVER, COLORADO – From May through mid-December 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) its third national equine study. The study will collect and analyze equine health data to provide information on the equine population, disease and risk factors, health management, and biosecurity practices.

In June and July, NASS will reach out to over 500 equine owners in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming to conduct personal interviews with farms that have one or more equine. For operations that choose to continue to phase II of the study, representatives from USDA's Veterinary Services will visit from August to mid-December 2015 to administer a second questionnaire. Respondents to this questionnaire may elect to participate in biologic sampling, including collection of blood and fecal samples, a tick exam, and collection of tick specimens.

"By responding to this survey, equine operators will provide accurate equine health data that help ensure agriculture decision-makers have the accurate, timely information they need, and allow researchers to focus their research on the most important diseases affecting the equine population," said Bill Meyer, Director of the NASS Regional Field Office.

The NAHMS equine study will provide current and scientifically valid estimates of management practices, disease prevalence, and other information important for trade and the health of the equine industry. In addition, information will be provided on trends in the implementation of equine health management practices and the antibiotic susceptibility of selected enteric bacteria. Participants will receive the results of an on-site biosecurity assessment and biologic sample testing.

"This is a great opportunity for equine operators who participate in the study to receive, at no cost, parasite and tick testing and a biosecurity assessment," said Meyer.

For more information about the NAHMS Equine study, visit www.nass.usda.gov. For state specific questions please contact:

Arizona – Dave DeWalt	1-800-645-7286
Colorado – Bill Meyer	1-800-392-3202
Montana – Eric Sommer	1-800-835-2612
Wyoming – Rhonda Brandt	1-800-892-1660

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